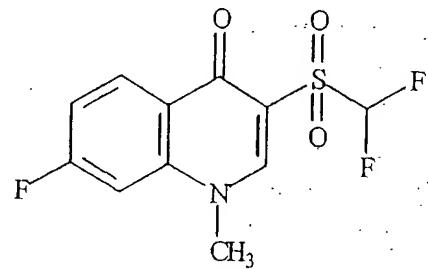


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**  
**PURSUANT TO REVISED 37 CFR § 1.121**

The following is a listing of claims that replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) A composition comprising the sulfone derivative of difluoroflosequinan, said sulfone derivative of difluoroflosequinan having the structure:



- 15 (New) A method for the synthesis of 3-difluoromethylsulfonyl-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone, comprising:

- a) providing:
  - i) 3-difluoromethylsulfinyl-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone, and
  - ii) m-chloroperbenzoic acid (MCPBA); and
- b) reacting said 3-difluoromethylsulfinyl-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone and m-chloroperbenzoic acid (MCPBA) under conditions such that 3-difluoromethylsulfonyl-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone is produced.